MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER 18, 1941.

The fifth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1942 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on October 18, 1941. The following members were present:

Mr. Clarke, Chairman,
Mr. Lamb,
Mr. Bruce,
Dr. Cret,
Mr. Holabird,
Mr. Poor,
Mr. Stackpole,
also H. P. Caemmerer,

Secretary and Administrative Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a. m.

The Commission welcomed Mr. Stackpole, sculptor, of San Francisco, who has succeeded Mr. Manship, whose term had expired. Mr. Stackpole is the first member of the Commission from the Pacific Coast since the establishment of the Commission of Fine Arts in 1910.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held September 18, 1941, were approved.

2. SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT SUBMISSIONS: Upon the recommendation of Mr. Lamb the Commission approved the following designs for residences submitted by the Building Inspector:

a. Application No. 963, - 2938 Edgevale Terrace, N. W.

b. Application No. 964, - 1707 South Portal Drive, N. W.

c. Application No. 966, - 2825 Normanstone Drive, N. W.

d. Application No. 959, Apartment House, 3900 Sixteenth Street, N. W. The Commission considered a set of plans for this apartment building on the north side of the Piney Branch Parkway at Shepherd Street. The Secretary presented a photograph of the location, which was inspected. It was noted that the site is

wooded. The Commission expressed regret that it was proposed to use the grounds for an apartment building adjacent to the parkway. The Chairman read a letter of protest from citizens of the locality against the erection of the apartment building. (Exhibit A)

The building is to be five stories high or about 60 feet. Mr. Lamb stated that he had inspected the plans yesterday and felt that the design of the building is passable but that the architect should be required to furnish a drawing showing the detailed treatment of the terrace wall along the parkway. The architect, Joseph Abel, furnished such a drawing (later in the day) and after inspection the Commission decided that the terrace wall should be of local stone to harmonize with the parkway; also that salmon color brick should be used rather than a yellow brick as proposed by the architect, a sample of which had been submitted by him.

The Secretary reported that the Zoning Commission would rule on the question of allowing the apartment building, on Monday, October 20. The Commission thereupon decided to withhold a report until after receipt of notice of final action by the Zoning Commission in this matter..

(At an executive meeting of the Zoning Commission held on Monday, October 20, that Commission deferred action with reference to this apartment building until a full meeting of the Zoning Commission could be held.)

The Secretary was instructed to withhold a report to the District Commissioners with regard to the apartment building (Exhibit B) until the Zoning Commission had reported that the apartment building could be erected. The Secretary stated that the plans were received on October 1 and the Commission have until the end of October to file a report with the District Commissioners.

3. PLAN FOR INDEPENDENCE AVENUE: Mr. Lamb reported that at the request of the Chairman he attended a meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning

Commission yesterday and that at the meeting there was a discussion of a plan for the extension of Independence Avenue from Fourteenth Street west to the river on the south side of the Mall. Mr. Lamb said: "The discussion was divided into two parts: First, the handling of traffic, partly for the new War Department Building on the Washington side of the Potomac on the south side of the Mall. The scheme presented for the extension of Independence Avenue showed a low bridge or possibly a causeway across the north end of the Tidal Basin, inclosing an inlet or cove. That was objected to by the District Engineers Office. From there it was shown that Independence Avenue could pass through the present line of trees westward to the Potomac and eventually to the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The plan was finally referred for stuay to Mr. Jay Downer and Mr. Hubbard, landscape architect of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

"Second, the other scheme was a restudy of the Lincoln Memorial Plaza where it was proposed to tunnel from the Arlington Memorial Bridge to connect with the parkway drives. That was violently objected to by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who read a report. He objected strongly to the desecration of the park areas by buses and made a strong plea for protection of the National Capital Parks and the Plan of Washington."

Dr. Cret objected to a causeway at the northern end of the Tidal Basin and in this the Commission generally concurred.

Mr. Lamb said that Mr. Hubbard brought up a point that he was not in sympathy with, namely, Mr. Hubbard wants to create an architectural feature on the north axis of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. The Commission felt that this was unnecessary.

4. ROADWAY PLAN FOR THE NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA.: Under date of October 8, 1941, the following letter was received from Mr. Thomas

H. MacDonald, Commissioner of the Public Roads Administration, as follows:

My dear Mr. Clarke:

Transmitted herewith for your information is a plan prepared with our advice and cooperation in the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General of the War Department, showing the proposed network of roads to be constructed in the vicinity of the new War Department building in Arlington County, Virginia. The plan is to approximate scale 1" - 400' but it should be considered diagrammatic in character and subject to some variation in details as studies based on topographic maps progress. The plan is colored to distinguish the proposed through roads from the roads to be used as accesses to the building and parking areas. Tentative plans for Columbia Island are being studied and will be taken up with the proper authorities for consideration in the near future.

As general plans and architectural elevations for the bridges in park areas are developed they will be submitted to you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Thos. H. MacDonald.
Commissioner.

The Commission inspected the design and called attention to the desirability of keeping buses off of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. The locations of the new War Department building, heating plant, and sewage disposal plant were noted on the plan. The necessity for making adequate provision for traffic over the Fourteenth Street Bridge was emphasized.

Mr. Clarke called attention to a pontoon bridge over the Rhine at Coblentz, which has been in use for fifty years and suggested the possibility of this temporary form of river crossing to supplement the existing bridges.

Dr. Cret reported that, at the request of the Bureau of Public Roads, he has been requested to serve as consulting architect in the design of some twenty bridges and grade separation structures needed in connection with the approach roads to the new War Department Building.

Dr. Cret submitted Scheme A for a grade elimination structure to carry the mixed traffic roads under the Arlington Memorial Avenue. This was inspected by

the Commission and approved. Also Scheme E was approved by the Commission for a bridge over Boundary Channel at the south end of Columbia Island Plaza subject to comment after the submission of the drawings when fully developed. (Exhibit C)

5. DESIGN FOR THE NEW WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING, ARLINGTON COUNTY, VA.: The Chairman reported that he attended a conference at the office of Mr. Frederic A. Delano, Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, on Saturday, September 27, as the result of which it was decided to protest against the erection of a heating plant and sewage disposal plant northeast of the new War Department Building in proximity to the Lincoln Memorial. Mr. Clarke read the letter he sent to the Secretary of War. (Exhibit D) Subsequently Mr. Clarke stated that the War Department agreed to a new location for the heating plant not far from the south end of the Fourteenth Street Bridge in the old Hoover Airport area, but left the sewage disposal plant, which is to be a low, inconspicuous building, at the site adjacent to the Boundary Channel, with the understanding that there would be no objectionable features in connection with it. This stipulation was agreed to. (Exhibit E; see also E-1)

Thereupon Mr. Bergstrom, consulting architect, and his assistants, Messrs. Pierpont Davis, Robert D. Farquhar, and David Witmer, submitted final plans and renderings for the new War Department Building. Mr. Bergstrom pointed out changes in the design that had been made in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission of Fine Arts at the meeting on September 18. The Commission noted in particular that the projection over the main entrance had been omitted, which materially improved the appearance of the building and that several of the corridors had been widened. Also the terrace proposed for taxicabs had been removed.

Floor plans were inspected and the Commission thought them to be satisfactory. Particular attention was given to the width of corridors. A preliminary landscape plan was presented by Mr. Bergstrom, which, it was noted, provides parking space for 8,000 cars.

Mr. Bergstrom then submitted a design for the sewage disposal plant. The control building will measure 25 by 50 feet and will be 12 feet high. The Commission considered the design in relation to the location above mentioned and approved it. The building will be built of exposed concrete.

A design for the heating plant was then inspected. The building is to be 416 feet long by 72 feet wide and 72 feet high. It was noted that the smokestacks would be inconspicuous. The Commission felt the windows were rather small but Mr. Bergstrom said that windows are not needed and it would be difficult to keep them clean. The exterior will be of exposed concrete.

Mr. Bergstrom said the roof of the War Department Building will be of green slate and that the interior court will be of exposed concrete while the exterior of the building will be of limestone. Mr. Bergstrom submitted a rendering for the main entrance of the Secretary's office and for the general official entrance; also renderings for the other three sides of the building, which will have small doorways for the convenience of employees and others.

A brief discussion of the plans then took place. The Commission realized that this was a very large project and that it was an emergency measure that had not allowed the architects the time they ordinarily would have had to study it. In behalf of the Commission, Mr. Lamb summed up the views of the Commission concerning the plans, as follows:

> Appreciating the urgency of this great operation, by reason of this National Emergency, and the limited time which the architects have had for study, the Commission of Fine Arts approve the designs as submitted for the buildings above referred to and express appreciation of the cooperation of the architects.

The Commission concurred in the above statement and a report of approval was sent accordingly to General Somervell. (Exhibit F; see also F-1)

6. PORTRAIT OF RACHEL JACKSON: Under date of September 26, 1941, the following letter was received from Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director of the National Park Service, with a portrait of Rachel Jackson by Howard Chandler Christy, offered by a Tennessee Commission for the White House:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

This Service has received a portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson by the Artist Howard Chandler Christy which is proposed for presentation to the White House.

Enclosed is a brief history received from Mrs. Rutledge Smith, Chairman of the Commission appointed by the Tennessee Legislature to procure a portrait of Mrs. Jackson, who represents the group desiring to present the portrait to the White House.

The portrait is submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice as to its artistic merit, and a report from you is desired as soon after the next meeting of the Commission as possible.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Newton B. Drury,
Director.

A memorandum explaining the portrait accompanied the letter. (Exhibit G) The Commission inspected the portrait and noted that it was done in the typical style of the artist but being a copy of a miniature it was thought doubtful if any other artist could do better.

Mr. Poor was asked for comment and he said:

If as a historical record this portrait satisfies the donors, the Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to its acceptance by the Federal Government.

The Commission agreed on the comments of Mr. Poor and the National Park Service was informed accordingly. (Exhibit G-1)

7. RELOCATION OF STATUE OF DR. BENJAMIN RUSH: Under date of October 9, 1941, the following letter was received from Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire,

Surgeon General of the Navy:

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

In front of the Naval Medical School in Washington, D. C. is a very fine statue of Dr. Benjamin Rush, eminent early American physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and who has often been referred to as "the father of American medicine." This statue was given to the Navy in 1904 by the American Medical Association.

As the Naval Medical Center is to be moved in the near future to the new site at Bethesda, Maryland, it is our intention to also move this statue and re-erect it on the grounds of the Medical Center, at Bethesda. However, it occurred to me that no statue of this character should be removed from the District of Columbia without referring to the Fine Arts Commission to assure ourselves that there would be no objection to its removal.

With kind regards, I am,

Very sincerely,
ROSS T. McINTIRE
Surgeon General, United States Navy

The secretary presented a photograph of the statue, which was inspected. The Commission felt that it was important to know the place the statue will occupy in the new medical center grounds and it was therefore decided to refer the matter to Dr. Cret, who served as consulting architect for the new medical center, and to Mr. Stackpole, with power to act. (Exhibit H)

8. STATUE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON: The Chairman reported that he had received a photograph of the model selected by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission with letter from Mr. Stuart Gibboney, as follows:

October 6, 1941.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I beg to send you herein enclosed copy of a news release which we are sending out to the newspapers and also two photographs of the model mentioned therein.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) Stuart G. Gibboney,
Chairman.

The Chairman filed for the records a copy of the press release received from Mr. Gibboney. (Exhibit I)

The question was raised whether or not a report had been made by the Jury of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission on the selection of this model. The Secretary presented the following letter received from Mr. James E. Fraser, a member of the jury, which indicated that this has not been done:

October 14, 1941.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I should like to record with the Commission of Fine Arts the fact that I was not called to see the final and winning model for the statue in the Jefferson Memorial, and therefore do not wish to be considered in any way responsible for the selection.

This is not to say that the model selected will not in every way be adequate. I only wish to record a matter of fact.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours
(Signed) James E. Fraser.

The Commission felt that this procedure was somewhat irregular; also in view of the fact that early in the proceedings the Commission of Fine Arts had been called upon to advise with reference to sculpture for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

9. MUNICIPAL CENTER CERAMIC: Under date of October 6, 1941, the following letter was received from Miss Hildreth Meiere, artist of one of the ceramics in the Municipal Center Building:

Gentlemen:

As I understand that there is to be a meeting of the Commission in the near future, I venture to draw your attention to the fact that the ceramic decoration which I designed for the East Court of the new Municipal Building is now in place, and to hope that you will take time to see it. Naturally, I also hope that you will be pleased with it.

Since Mr. Gregory has signed his frieze, I would like to do the same, but I would like to add the names of Klimo, sculptor, and the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company, who executed my work. Mr. Wyatt tells me that this course would be unusual, and might cause complications.

The question seems to me to be an interesting one. Whereas I realize that all names connected with a job cannot be used, I do feel that in a craft job, where an essential contribution has been made--where it has been a collaborative effort--that due credit should be given. I don't see what you lose, and I know what you gain. I believe that real craftsmanship is becoming scarce--that the spirit of craftsmanship is dying out in many crafts with the older generation who grew up in them. I believe that architects and designers must do all that they possibly can to encourage younger people to enter these crafts. One of the ways that this can be done is by recognizing the dignity of the craftsman's contribution, and acknowledging it publicly.

If this can be admitted in principle, it then becomes a question as to whether the craftsmen have made this essential contribution. In the case of my ceramic decoration, I believe they have. The skill and imagination of Klimo's modelling from my drawings have given the job what I believe is a very fresh and yet architectural quality, and the beauty, variety and interest of the glazes is a very personal contribution from Mr. William Powell, President of the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company, and his technical staff. As a ceramic job, I believe it to be outstanding. I feel the above so strongly that I do not care to add my name to the mural unless I can make acknowledgement to my collaborators, for I feel that it is a good job--that it should be recognized as such, and that there is credit enough for all concerned to share it.

It also seems to me that the importance of both jobs, Mr. Gregory's and mine, should have rated some little publicity.

Trusting that I do not overestimate the work, in your opinion, I am

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Hildreth Meiere.

The Commission considered the matter and felt that the Commission of Fine Arts should guard against the attempt of commercial firms to advertise their products on works of art. However, after discussion it was decided that there should be no objection to having the name of the artist, the sculptor, and the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company indicated by signatures on the ceramic, with the understanding that a design illustrating the signatures will be submitted to the Commission. (Exhibit J)

10. DESIGN FOR PUBLIC ROADS LABORATORY: Under date of October 19, 1941, the following letter was received from the Office of the Supervising Architect with plans for new buildings:

Dear Sir:

In reference to the proposed Shop Buildings, Central Heating Plant and Heavy Test Laboratory to be constructed for the Public Roads Administration at Langley, Virginia, there are enclosed sketches showing the proposed designs for these buildings. There are also forwarded for your information a set of blueprints showing the plans for the above-mentioned projects.

This office would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date any comments which the Commission might desire to make in connection with these projects.

When the sketches of the elevations have served their purpose, it is requested that they be returned to this office.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. A. Noll,
Acting Supervising Architect.

It was noted from the location plan that the new buildings are to be erected on a reservation of about 400 acres two miles north of Chain Bridge adjacent to the Potomac River.

Mr. Simon submitted a model showing the location and proposed building. The architect members of the Commission felt that the buildings were not well grouped and that the administration building in particular should be redesigned to more adequately fit the site. Mr. Simon was asked to restudy the layout for the buildings not scheduled for construction at this time.

The design for the buildings proposed for immediate construction indicated a Georgian type of structure, recalling Virginia colonial buildings and was considered to be satisfactory and therefore approved. A report was sent to Mr. Simon. (Exhibit K)

11. TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDING "R": Mr. Louis Simon submitted a design for temporary building "R" to be on the south side of the Mall between Third

and Fourth Streets, and accompanying letter as follows:

October 9, 1941.

Dear Sir:

In reference to proposed Temporary Office Building "K" to be erected in this city on the site bounded by 3rd and 4th Streets, S. W., Jefferson Drive and Maryland Avenue, S. W., there are forwarded to you enclosed, prints (4 sets) of the elevations and plans for this project.

This office would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date any comments which the Commission might desire to make in connection with this project.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. A. Noll,
Acting Supervising Architect.

The design was inspected by the architect members of the Commission and upon their recommendation the Commission approved it. (Exhibit L)

12. BUREAU OF STANDARDS LABORATORY: Under date of October 9, 1941, the following letter was received from the office of the Supervising Architect, submitting a design for the new laboratory of the Bureau of Standards:

Dear Sir:

In reference to the proposed Materials Testing Laboratory to be constructed at the National Bureau of Standards, this city, there are forwarded to you enclosed, a copy of the front elevation and plans for this project.

This office would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date any comments which the Commission might desire to make in connection with this project.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. A. Noll,
Acting Supervising Architect.

The Commission noted the location and recommended a change in the setting of the building. A report of approval of the design was sent to Mr. Simon. (Exhibit M)

13. WASHINGTON AIRPORT EXTENSION: Under date of October 13, 1941, the following letter was received from the office of the Supervising Architect sub-

mitted a design proposed for the extension of the ground floor of the Administration Building of the Airport, as follows:

Dear Sir:

In connection with the proposed addition to the Terminal Building at the Washington National Airport, Gravelly Point, Virginia, there are forwarded to you enclosed prints of studies showing schemes "C" and "E". It is proposed to obtain alternate bids for both of these schemes and after the bids have been obtained, selection will be made as to which of these schemes will be used.

This office would appreciate receiving at the earliest possible date any comments which the Commission might desire to make in connection with these schemes.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. A. Noll
Acting Supervising Architect.

Mr. Simon stated that this small addition is needed in connection with the cafeteria to pack lunches for the pilots and travelers. The design was inspected by the architect members of the Commission and upon their recommendation was approved. (Exhibit N)

14. INSPECTION OF MODELS FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT BUILDING IN THE NORTHWEST RECTANGLE: Mr. Bruce arranged for setting up full sized solar prints of models of the sculptural groups by Earl Thorp to flank the main entrance to the War Department Building in the Northwest Rectangle. They represented on the south side a female figure and on the north side a male figure. They recalled a classical style of sculpture. Each figure is to be approximately 17 feet long and 12½ feet high and is to be cut in limestone. In connection with these full sized solar prints there were also shown again a full sized solar print of the eagle, which is 7½ feet high, by Henry Kreis, and of flanking soldier groups.

After viewing all these models in place the architect members of the Commission felt unanimously that this was too much sculpture for the main entrance to the building and that the soldier groups should be removed. The suggestion made some

months ago that the soldier groups be placed as individual sculpture in the lobby of the building to flank the mural painting was reaffirmed. It was thought that executed in dark granite they would be very impressive.

Mr. Stackpole felt that the soldier groups were not particularly objectionable at the sides of the eagle and that they were a desirable sculptural feature, suggestive of the War Department, although before executing them they should be further studied. In this Mr. Poor concurred. All the members felt that the sculptors of these models should come to Washington and inspect these enlargements in place. Mr. Stackpole said that the subsidiary figure adjacent to the main figure by Mr. Thorp should be redesigned or possibly eliminated.

The Commission approved the models by Mr. Thorp subject to submission of the next models in the round of this group at a later time. (Exhibit O)

15. PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD BRIDGE: The Secretary presented a design received from Mr. J. Gilbert Nettleton, General Agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, for reconstructing the railroad bridge across the Potomac at the south end of the city. A brief letter had accompanied the design as follows:

October 4, 1941.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

With reference to your telephone request of a few days ago, I am enclosing a copy of our plan in connection with the Railroad Bridge across the Potomac. I shall be pleased to furnish you with any additional information you desire.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) J. G. Nettleton,
General Agent.

It was noted that there would be about 12 additional piers that will be needed so as to do away with the existing trusses, excepting only the draw span which is to remain. The Commission interposed no objection to the scheme, it being understood that the project meet with the approval of the Chief of Engineers

of the U. S. Army. A four-track bridge was thought to be preferable but it was realized that this would be considerably more costly. Also it would be required to widen the piers and in the meantime it would be an improvement to have the steel girders rather than the old trusses. The Commission approved the design with the understanding that all metal decorations at the junction of the girders be removed and that the bridge will be painted green with DuPont's deLuxe #25-285. (Exhibit P)

16. REPORT ON COOPERATION WITH THE SECTION OF FINE ARTS: The Chairman reported that pursuant to a preliminary report by Mr. Poor and Mr. Manship he had drafted a report for adoption by the Commission. (Exhibit Q)

The members of the Commission had been furnished with copies of the report and in general it was thought to be satisfactory. However, Mr. Bruce said that since Mr. Stackpole has become the sculptor member he should be given an opportunity to comment on the report. It was therefore decided that Mr. Stackpole should do this and action on the report was deferred until the next meeting.

17. NEW PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL AREA: The Commission expressed their appreciation of a plan received through Mr. Nolen of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission of the new plan prepared by that Commission for the Central Composition of the National Capital to extend eastward from the Capitol along East Capitol Street to the Anacostia River, thus making the entire length of the Central Composition from the Anacostia River to the Arlington Memorial Bridge fully five miles. This scheme has long been looked forward to and it is believed makes the most outstanding plan for a capital city in any country.

The Commission felt that the plan would be particularly helpful in advising upon the location of new buildings east of the Capitol to the Anacostia River in accordance with a new Clarke-Downer plan recently adopted. (Exhibit R)

18. ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY BUILDING: Mr. Otto R. Eggers and his assistant, Mr. Edwin Olsen, of the firm of Eggers and Higgins submitted a revised design for the Army Medical Museum and Library Building to be built along East Capitol Street east of the Folger Library. Mr. Eggers reported that the design has been made to meet the requirements heretofore stipulated with reference to frontage from East Capitol Street and the Third and Fourth Street sideyards and that this revised design meets the approval of the Surgeon General of the Army.

The Commission inspected the design and considered it to be satisfactory with the exception that sculpture should be placed at the library entrance and the museum entrance rather than architectural motifs. The design was approved with this recommendation. (Exhibit S)

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p. m.

C. V. M A U D L I N
Mills Building
Washington, D. C.

October 6, 1941

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer
Secretary and Administrative Officer
Commission of Fine Arts
Interior Department Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Caemmerer:

It is my understanding that plans for buildings facing the national capital parks must receive the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts. In this connection I would like to call the Commission's attention to a building which it is proposed to erect at the southwest corner of 16th and Shepherd Streets, N. W.

The parcel of land on this corner is known as Parcel 70/100. It extends approximately 350 feet on Shepherd Street, and 270 feet on 16th Street, and contains approximately 90,330 square feet. It has been in the Machen family for more than 25 years, and the owners of record now are Arthur and Thomas Machen, of Baltimore.

It is part of a large subdivision owned by the Machens in which lots have been sold, the purchasers being restricted to erect only single family dwellings. In 1920, a portion of the property was zoned to permit an apartment house, and in 1933, the entire tract was zoned to permit them. This is the only parcel of ground on 16th Street between the Piney Branch Parkway and the D. C. line on which an apartment building can be erected.

Practically all of the people who have built houses in the surrounding area were of the opinion that this particular tract of ground was part of the park as it is a beautiful wooded spot, contiguous to the park on two sides. When it was learned that an apartment building was planned on this site, an inquiry disclosed the fact that there was a contract of sale between the Machens and a Harry Poretsky, who planned to build an apartment house. The sale has not yet been completed, and it is understood that Mr. Poretsky prefers not to build and has asked to be relieved of his contract. He states that he does not wish to build an apartment building in a location where he is not wanted, and also that it probably would be difficult to get building materials.

The property owners in the area are unanimously opposed to the apartment with the exception of an owner living two blocks to the north on 16th Street who states that he would like to have an apartment erected so that he could ask that his property be zoned for an apartment building to be erected on the corner of 16th and Upshur Streets. The people

EXHIBIT A

owning the property to the immediate north have informed me that they find a provision in their deed prohibiting them from opposing an apartment. This deed was given them by the Machens. A recent buyer in the vicinity has told me a similar story.

The matter of rezoning the tract was placed before the commission, and they have ordered a hearing which will be held on Wednesday, October 8, at 10:00 A. M. A copy of the notice is enclosed.

I am certain that I speak for all of the property owners with the exception of the gentleman referred to above, when I ask for your support, and that of the Fine Arts Commission, in opposing the erection of an apartment building on Parcel 70/100.

The arguments in behalf of prohibiting an apartment building, and eventually including this parcel in the public parks system are too obvious to need mention.

Very sincerely yours,
C. V. Maudlin

CVM:rv
Enclosure

October 24, 1941.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 18, 1941, considered the design submitted by the Inspector of Buildings of the District of Columbia (Application No. 959, October 1, 1941) for an apartment building at 3900--16th Street, N. W., between Shepherd Street and the Piney Branch Parkway. The Commission considered the design for the apartment house acceptable provided a salmon brick is used for the building and provided further that a suitable local stone is used for facing the retaining wall along the south side of the building on or near the property line of the Piney Branch Parkway.

The Commission regret the use of this wooded area adjacent to the parkway for an apartment building and are in complete accord with the opinion of a majority of the property owners in the immediate vicinity, as expressed in communications to this body, that only single family residences should be allowed along Sixteenth Street north of the Piney Branch Parkway to the District line. We trust the Zoning Commission will give full consideration to the possibility of changing the zoning in this area.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Board of Commissioners,
District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

C O P Y

October 20, 1941.

My dear Mr. MacDonald:

In behalf of the Commission of Fine Arts, I wish to thank you for a print of the plan, submitted with your letter of October 8th, prepared with the advice of your office and in cooperation with the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General, War Department, showing the proposed network of roads to be constructed in the vicinity of the new War Department building in Arlington County, Virginia. The plan was particularly helpful at a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts held on October 18th, when the Commission approved the designs submitted for the new War Department building and considered designs for two bridges submitted by your consulting architect, Mr. Paul P. Cret and Mr. Joseph Barnett of your office. The preliminary architectural designs for (a) the grade elimination structure to carry the mixed traffic roads under the Arlington Memorial Avenue and (b) the driveway bridge over Boundary Channel at the South end of Columbia Avenue are approved, subject to comment after the submission of the drawings when fully developed.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Thomas H. MacDonald, Commissioner,
Public Roads Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

C O P Y

September 27, 1941.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

This morning I met with Mr. Frederic A. Delano and others representing the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Park Service and learned, to my surprise, that the architects and engineers of the Office of the Construction Quartermaster propose to erect a heating and sewage disposal plant for the new War Department building on a site at the extreme northerly edge of the old airport near the shores of Boundary Channel. The site is indicated on the photostat of a map enclosed with this letter.

In our considered judgment this site is undesirable for many reasons, among them:

(a) That it would place utilitarian structures in direct view from the new War Department building looking toward the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the Lincoln Memorial, and Potomac Park.

(b) A structure on this site would be prominent in the view from the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, the heights of Arlington, Potomac Park, the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial Bridge, and the proposed new Route 1 as it approaches Columbia Island.

(c) No matter what precautions are taken with the design of a building to house a heating plant, it is bound to be purely utilitarian in appearance and entirely out of harmony with the park like environment which should continue to obtain in this area. The thousands of people who approach the Capitol City from points south and west over the Mount

Vernon Memorial Highway and over Route 1, when rebuilt, should not be required to pass a great heating and sewage disposal plant in view between them, the Lincoln Memorial, and other monuments of Washington.

Our conclusion, that the site chosen should not be adopted for this heating and sewage disposal plant, was not reached hurriedly but only after most painstaking deliberation. We recommend that this plant be erected on lands south of the proposed site for the new War Department building (south of line A-B on the enclosed photostat) in order to meet the serious objections which obtain on the site recommended by the engineers and architects of the office of the Construction Quartermaster. We have not suggested a specific location, realizing that there are several available and that the proper officials will be required to make detailed studies based upon requirements with which we are not familiar.

Be assured, Sir, that we shall be pleased to assist you in any way we can in the direction of arriving at a satisfactory solution to this problem. In opposing the site first recommended, we believe that we acted in the interests of the War Department, the people in Virginia and the District of Columbia, as well as the millions of visitors who come to Washington annually.

Respectfully, yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

October 3, 1941.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Under date of September 27 I addressed a communication to you on the subject of the location of proposed heating and sewage disposal plants for the new War Department Building. Since writing that letter, I have learned that the Construction Quartermaster has agreed to move the heating plant to another site, which is entirely acceptable to this Commission.

I understand further that the sewage disposal plant is to remain at the site as proposed along the edge of the Boundary Channel. Since the building for this plant is low, it may be readily screened out, and this Commission will raise no objections to its construction at that location.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT E

October 6, 1941

Dear Mr. Clarke:

I have your letter of September 27, offering the views of your Commission in respect to the location of the heating and sewage plant for the new War Department Building.

This matter is now receiving attention by appropriate officials of this Department and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Henry L. Stimson,
Secretary of War

EXHIBIT E-1

COMMISSION OF FINE
ARTS
Washington

October 19, 1941.

Dear General Somervell:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today reviewed the designs for the new War Department Building in Arlington County, Virginia, submitted in your behalf by Mr. Edwin Bergstrom, Consulting Architect.

The Commission also reviewed architectural designs and location plans for buildings to be erected in connection with (a) the heating plant and (b) the sewage disposal plant, in connection with the War Department Building.

Appreciating the urgency of this great operation, by reason of this National Emergency, and the limited time which the architects have had for study, the Commission of Fine Arts approve the designs as submitted for the buildings above referred to and express appreciation of the cooperation of the architects.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Brigadier General Brehon B. Somervell,
Chief, Construction Division,
Office of the Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington

October 21, 1941.

Mr. Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman, The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clarke:

Thank you very much for your note of October 18 advising of the final action by the Commission of Fine Arts on the plans submitted to you by Mr. Bergstrom.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Brehon Somervell,

Brigadier General, U. S. A.

EXHIBIT F-1

C O P Y

NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812

September the Twenty-Second

Relative to the Portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson
(By Mrs. Rutledge Smith)

By a special Act of Tennessee Legislature in 1941, Public Chapter 154, House Bill, 1017, a Commission composed of five ladies prominent in the affairs of the State--viz: Mrs. Rutledge Smith, Mrs. E. W. Hale, Mrs. E. W. Graham, Miss Zella Armstrong and Mrs. Allen Harris was authorized to have an appropriate portrait of Mrs. Andrew Jackson painted by some nationally recognized artist and placed in the White House. An appropriation was made to pay for same.

The Commission unanimously voted to have Howard Chandler Christy do the work and in a contract with him stipulated that the likeness of Mrs. Jackson as portrayed by the artists of her time must be reproduced.

The portrait is now finished and has been passed on by the Tennessee Commission as a faithful portrayal of Mrs. Jackson as painted by Earl in her life time--the Earl portrait hangs in Gen. Jackson's bedroom at the Hermitage.

In fact, the Commission and those who have seen the portrait are more than pleased. The lace head dress, is perfect as is the old jewelry, the original of which is in the Hermitage Museum. The moss rose in her hands was taken from a bush in the garden--an off shoot of the roses planted by Mrs. Jackson and is like the one in the Earl picture.

The Christy portrait of Mrs. Jackson expresses beauty, dignity and the romance of the "Old South". It is a splendid combination of the Earl portrait and of the ivory miniature painted by Anna C. Peale in 1815 in Washington City. After Mrs. Jackson's death, Gen. Jackson wore the miniature during the day and

at night placed upon a small table by his bedside. Just before his death, he hung it around the neck of the little twelve year old daughter of his adopted son. Some years ago, the Hermitage received this lovely piece from this little daughter's granddaughter and today it is among the treasures of the Hermitage Museum.

That Mrs. Jackson was a woman of refinement and culture is shown by the lovely laces, exquisite jewelry and furnishings of the Hermitage. That she was a woman of piety and Christian graces is revealed in her letters to her many nieces and nephews who made her home their home.

All this has been revealed in her face by the artist. With his rare talent and skillful brush he has given to the world a picture of the woman who kept soft the heart of Old Hickory and made of the great warrior a soldier of the Cross.

C O P Y

October 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Drury:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting today, considered the portrait of Rachel Jackson which you submitted with your letter of September 26th.

If as a historical record this portrait satisfies the donors, the Commission of Fine Arts have no objection to its acceptance by the Federal Government.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Newton B. Drury, Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT G-1

C O P Y

October 20, 1941

Dear Mr. McIntire:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 18th, considered your letter of October 9th, suggesting the removal of the statue of Dr. Benjamin Rush from the Naval Hospital grounds to the new Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Maryland.

The Commission felt that before taking final action in this matter it would be desirable to know the exact location proposed for re-erection of the statue. The Commission therefore appointed a committee to consult with you, consisting of Dr. Paul P. Cret, architect, and Mr. Ralph Stackpole, sculptor, members of this Commission. It may be possible for them to present their recommendation concerning the relocation of this statue at the next meeting of the Commission. You will doubtless hear from Mr. Cret, consulting architect to the Navy Department, regarding this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Dr. Ross T. McIntire,
Surgeon General,
United States Navy,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT H

THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL COMMISSION,
Stuart C. Gibboney, Chairman,
70 Pine Street, New York City.

For Release October 8, 1941

For the statue of Jefferson in the new Jefferson Memorial in Washington a model by the sculptor Rudolph Evans has been selected by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission, Stuart C. Gibboney of New York, Chairman of the Commission, announced today.

The standing figure, of bronze, about eighteen feet in height, will occupy the central rotunda of the building now approaching completion on the Tidal Basin in Potomac Park. "Jefferson is represented," Mr. Gibboney stated, "in the period of his Presidence, at approximately sixty years of age, when still in the full vigor of his fine though slender physique. The Commission, which was unanimous in its selection, feels that the sculptor, in this ideal portrait, has well embodied both the character and likeness of the subject, and the monumental treatment requisite for its position in the Memorial". A long, fur-trimmed coat, such as Jefferson wears in the only full-length portrait painted in his lifetime, the one by Sully at West Point, adds to the sculptural volume of the figure.

Rudolph Evans, author of the selected model, is the sculptor of numerous ideal and portrait figures of which the best known is that of Robert E. Lee in the Capitol at Richmond, Virginia. Born in Washington of Virginian ancestry, and now living in New York, he studied in America, Rome and in Paris, where his work is represented in Luxembourg, as it is also in the Metropolitan and other American museums.

For the Jefferson figure a nation-wide competition, in which one hundred sculptors took part, was conducted by the Jefferson Memorial Commission. Six of these sculptors, selected by a professional jury, were retained by the Commission, with due compensation, to prepare models in the second stage of this competition, but none of the models then submitted was satisfactory to the Commission. Three of these sculptors, whose models were considered the most promising, were commissioned to prepare new models, of which that of Mr. Evans has now been chosen for execution. It is hoped that the figure may be completed for unveiling on the bicentennial of Jefferson's birth, April 13, 1943.

EXHIBIT I

C O P Y

October 21, 1941.

Dear Miss Meiere:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 18, 1941, considered your letter of October 6th with regard to placing names of artists on the ceramic which you designed for the Municipal Center Building.

The Commission see no objection to giving credit to you, Mr. Klimo, sculptor, and to the Atlantic Terra Cotta Company. However, before this is done the Commission would like to see a small scale drawing of the proposed signatures and a print of the ceramic showing where the signatures would appear.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Miss Hildreth Meiere,
200 West 57th Street,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT J

C O P Y

October 24, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 18, 1941, approved the designs you submitted with your letter of October 9th for the proposed shop buildings, central heating plant, and heavy test laboratory, to be built for the Public Roads Administration at Langley, Virginia, about two miles north of Chain Bridge.

The Commission considered your model showing the location for other buildings in this area and trust that further study may be given this problem which may result in creating a more pleasing composition. The type of architecture which has been adopted is not particularly suited to so rugged a site. However, the Commission feel that this may be worked out in a satisfactory manner with a less formal scheme of building location and plan.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT K

C O P Y

October 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 18, 1941, approved the design you submitted with your letter of October 9, for Temporary Office Building "R" to be erected on the side bounded by Third and Fourth Streets, Jefferson Drive and Maryland Avenue on the south side of the Mall.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT L

C O P Y

October 20, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 18, 1941, approved the design you submitted with your letter of October 9th, for the proposed Material Testing Laboratory to be constructed at the National Bureau of Standards. The Commission believe an improvement could be made in the location of the building, as was explained in conference with you.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT M

C O P Y

October 18, 1941.

Dear Mr. Simon:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting today approved designs you submitted for a proposed addition to the Administration Building at the Washington National Airport.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Hon. Louis A. Simon,
Supervising Architect,
Public Buildings Administration,
Federal Works Agency,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT N

C O P Y

October 20, 1941.

Hon. Edward Bruce, Chief,
Section of Fine Arts, P. B. A.
Federal Works Agency
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bruce:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 18, 1941, were pleased to inspect the full-sized solar prints of models by Earl Thorp for sculptural groups to flank the entrance to the War Department Building in the Northwest Rectangle. The designs, as represented by the solar prints, were accepted, subject to approval of clay or plaster models at the next larger scale. It is hoped that Mr. Thorp may be afforded the opportunity to visit Washington and to study his groups with the aid of the above-mentioned prints in place.

The models were considered in connection with full-sized prints of the eagle and flanking soldier groups by Henry Kreis. The three architect members of this Commission unanimously felt that the soldier groups form a discordant element in relation to the eagle by the same sculptor and the large sculptural groups by Mr. Thorp, and they recommend that these soldier groups be considered for interior sculpture in dark polished stone to flank the large mural painting in the entrance lobby. Mr. Stackpole and Mr. Poor voted to retain the soldier groups, but agreed that they would have to be restudied.

Inasmuch as a majority of the members of the Commission voted to reject the soldier groups on the exterior of the building, Messrs. Stackpole and Poor concurred in the idea of having Mr. Kreis restudy these compositions for the entrance lobby, where they may be carved in a dark stone and possibly polished. The architect members felt that these groups would make a handsome addition to the lobby.

It is understood that the eagle by Mr. Kreis is approved subject to review of the next large scale model by the Commission.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT O

C O P Y

October 24, 1941.

Dear Mr. Nettleton:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on October 18, 1941, considered the design you submitted for changes in the railroad bridge across the Potomac. The Commission were pleased to note that steel girders will be used and that existing trusses will be discarded except for the draw span, which will not be changed. The Commission realize that a number of additional piers will be necessary and that their design is subject to the approval of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army. The design of the new stone piers shown on your drawing is satisfactory to this Commission; the only change suggested is the simplification of the steel post between the girders which on some piers is extended to carry the overhead wires. These, the Commission believe, may be simplified more or less as shown on the attached print.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,
Chairman.

Mr. J. Gilbert Nettleton,
General Agent,
Pennsylvania Railroad,
Hibbs Building,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT P

At the suggestion of the Chief of the Section of Fine Arts, Public Buildings Administration, the Commission of Fine Arts have carefully considered certain recommendations made by a committee consisting of two of its members, aimed to improve the quality of work of painting and sculpture submitted for the embellishment of public buildings in the National Capital and its environs.

A preliminary report was prepared by the committee, Messrs. Poor and Manship, appointed to study this subject; after review and comment on this report by the other members, the Chairman has prepared the following statement for final consideration as the approved policy of the Commission with respect to a method of procedure to govern competitions and subsequent approval of works of art in which both the Section of Fine Arts and the Commission of Fine Arts are interested:

The Commission of Fine Arts takes this occasion to express their appreciation of the work of the Section of Fine Arts. They feel that, at a crucial period in the artistic development of the country, the work of the Section has contributed materially to the artistic growth of the Nation. The system of anonymous competitions has given new talent greater opportunity and in decentralizing art activity, has stirred and aided the art consciousness of the country. In short, it has administered the art patronage of the Government in a fair and democratic manner. This we owe to the courage, the vision and the unselfish devotion of Mr. Edward Bruce.

The works of art in painting and sculpture created for the Government in the City of Washington is our special concern. These works should represent the very peak of ability of the country's contemporary artists and provide an incentive toward even greater accomplishment. While outstanding work of genius cannot be predicted or captured for a

particular place, we would hope to have its first cousin, free and intelligent ability, as abundantly represented in Washington as the system of official awards may reasonably insure.

The Section of Fine Arts is charged with the organization and execution of art on Governmental buildings on a nation-wide basis. The Commission of Fine Arts serves by Congressional order, principally in an advisory and critical capacity for the art of the National Capital. In endorsing the impulse given to American painting and sculpture by the Section of Fine Arts, in the discovery of new talent and the opportunities to develop it under a program of open and anonymous competitions, the Commission realize that more paintings and sculpture have been brought before the Commission for consideration than have been authorized in the entire previous history of that body. But, in so far as art for the City of Washington is concerned, the Commission believe that the danger of alloting work of importance to inexperienced artists, who may have won a competition on the basis of a clever sketch, but who may be incapable of worthily executing the commission in its final form, would be obviated by calling only upon artists of recognized ability to compete. The Section of Fine Arts lists competition winners, as well as artists of national reputation who do not enter open competitions, but who would presumably enter limited ones. The names of nominees for these competitions, as well as the names of the jurors, who are to pass upon the selection of the artists, shall, as prescribed by Congressional Order, be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice and criticism.

It is desirable that the architects of the Federal Works Agency, and others working upon government projects, be induced to cooperate with the Section of Fine Arts for the selection of artists at an early stage in the building design in order that the architect and the artist may work together sympathetically so that the latter may make his work an integral part of the building it is to embellish, rather than to be applied later as an afterthought. In Government buildings sculptural and painted decorations are too often not sufficiently well related to the architectural design which, had foresighted collaboration been employed, may not have obtained.

C O P Y

October 22, 1941.

My dear Mr. Nolen:

The Commission of Fine Arts wish to thank you for the print of the new design for the Central Area of the National Capital. It completes a scheme that has long been looked forward to and we hope it may be carried out in the near future. This, of course, will be done as new public buildings are located on East Capitol Street. Among the first of these is the new Army Medical Museum and Library building.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. John Nolen,
Director of Planning,
National Capital Park and
Planning Commission,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT R

C O P Y

October 20, 1941.

Dear Mr. Eggers:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on October 18, 1941, approved the revised design you submitted for the Army Medical Library and Museum to be erected on East Capitol Street, on the square east of the Folger Shakespeare Library, with the understanding that appropriate sculptured elements take the place of the architectural forms indicated on your drawings at the entrances to the Library and to the Museum.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Gilmore D. Clarke,

Chairman.

Mr. Otto R. Eggers,
Eggers & Higgins, Architects,
542 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

EXHIBIT S